

**To:** Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA[]  
**From:** SHOREN BROWN  
**Sent:** Wed 2/16/2011 11:37:12 PM  
**Subject:** Re: GOP ENR: Murkowski Cautions EPA against overreaching with Bristol Bay watershed study

Unfortunately - yes.

On 2/16/11 3:35 PM, "Palmer Hough" <Hough.Palmer@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

>  
> Have you seen this?  
>  
>  
> (Embedded image moved to file: pic10405.jpg)  
> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: ROBERT DILLON (202)  
> 224-6977  
> FEBRUARY 16, 2011 or MEGAN  
> HERMANN (202) 224-7875  
>  
> Sen. Murkowski Cautions EPA Officials Against Overreaching with Bristol  
> Bay Watershed Assessment  
>  
> WASHINGTON, D.C. - In a letter sent today to the head of the  
> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski,  
> R-Alaska, cautioned the federal agency against overreaching in its  
> assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed and prejudging any project prior  
> to the release of a detailed development plan and the completion of a  
> full scientific analysis of potential impacts.  
>  
> <sup>3</sup>I believe the EPA should commit now to refraining from exercising a  
> veto of development in the Bristol Bay area at any point prior to the  
> full consideration of a permit application,<sup>2</sup> Murkowski said. <sup>3</sup>Any effort  
> by the agency to block responsible development before a project has even  
> been proposed would be unprecedented and would have a chilling effect on  
> the state's economy.<sup>2</sup>  
>  
> Opponents of the Pebble Mine petitioned the EPA to block the proposed  
> development by preemptively vetoing any necessary Clean Water Act  
> permits. In response, the agency earlier this month announced plans to  
> assess the potential impacts of development on the Bristol Bay  
> watershed.  
>  
> In the letter, Murkowski asked EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to provide  
> greater detail on the agency's plan to review the potential impact of  
> future development in the Bristol Bay region, including whether the  
> assessment would consider the total value of the mineral and other  
> natural resources in the region and whether the study would be submitted  
> for peer review.  
>  
> Murkowski also asked whether the EPA has any concerns with the U.S. Army  
> Corps of Engineers' current process for considering dredge or fill  
> material permit applications.  
>  
> <sup>3</sup>It's my hope that answers to these questions will provide a better

> indication of the direction the EPA is headed with this watershed  
> assessment,<sup>2</sup> Murkowski said. <sup>3</sup>I expect this process to be honest,  
> transparent and inclusive. This must not be a check-the-box exercise  
> that merely provides cover for the EPA to veto future permit  
> applications.<sup>2</sup>  
>  
> Murkowski cited the EPA's recent retroactive veto of an already-approved  
> West Virginia permit as prompting her concern over the agency's action  
> overruling the Army Corps of Engineers on water discharge permits.  
>  
> <sup>3</sup>A preemptive veto, just like a preemptive approval, would be based  
> purely on speculation and conjecture and would deprive relevant  
> government agencies, and all stakeholders, of the specifics needed to  
> take an informed position,<sup>2</sup> Murkowski said.  
>  
> The full letter to the EPA is attached.  
>  
> #####  
>  
> For further information, please contact Robert Dillon at 202.224.6977 or  
> Robert\_dillon@energy.senate.gov or Megan Hermann at 202.224.7875 or  
> megan\_hermann@energy.senate.gov.  
> Visit our website at <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>  
>  
>  
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> (See attached file: 110216EPA letter release.doc)(See attached file:  
> 2\_16 Watershed Assmnt LTR.pdf)

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